



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476

(215) 861-8200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2008

U.S. ATTORNEY PAT MEEHAN ANNOUNCES IDENTITY THEFT ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM

PHILADELPHIA – Identity thieves exploit information gaps between law enforcement agencies. Historically, because there was no central information-sharing system for identity theft crimes reported by victims and merchants, small thefts committed by the same criminals were often never connected. A single police department investigating a case in one region had little chance of discovering whether any other agencies were investigating the same gang. This was also true in terrorism, drug, and firearm trafficking investigations where false identities were being used.

Today, U.S. Attorney Pat Meehan, Deputy Chief Postal Inspector Ken Jones, along with Anne Wallace, President of the Identity Theft Assistance Center, and Michael Kelty, Deputy Director of Operations for MAGLOCLIN (Middle Atlantic Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network) announced a strategic solution to the problem. It's called The National Identity Crime Law Enforcement network (NICLE). Data concerning stolen or criminally used identity information will be uploaded from collecting agencies to NICLE through the MAGLOCLIN computer network. That data will include national law enforcement generated information, submitted by local, state, and federal agencies, and banking information through an industry clearinghouse. The data will be available to local, state, and federal law enforcement over a secure Internet connection through the Regional Information Sharing System Network (RISS), which is available nationwide to member agencies.

NICLE will provide a central repository of identity crime-related information, allowing agencies to learn immediately whether a particular piece of identification (driver's license, credit card, address, social security number, etc.) has been reported stolen or used elsewhere in the course of a crime. It will also name investigators, thus permitting departments and agencies to coordinate, across jurisdictional lines, when working on crimes involving the same or connected identities or credit card numbers. This database was cited, under its previous name, in the 2007 report of the President's Identity Theft Task Force: Combating Identity Theft, a Strategic Plan.

"One of the biggest problems with identity theft has been that the stolen information can be used for weeks if not months before anyone realizes that a crime has been committed," said Meehan. "This new network will allow law enforcement agencies to query the system to look for patterns revealing the operation of identity theft gangs and will help locate the sources of stolen identification information."

July 10, 2008
Page 2

The NICLE database was designed by local, state, and federal criminal investigators participating in the Regional Identity Theft Working Group, organized and led by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Programming, as well as ongoing computer services, are being provided by the United States Postal Inspection Service.

"The National Identity Crime Law Enforcement network is a quantum leap forward in the exchange of identity crimes related intelligence," said Jones. "It also accomplishes the President's Identity Theft Task Force recommendation of establishing such a network."

NICLE is going on-line for immediate use by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Training has already begun for agencies in Pennsylvania. The Postal Inspection Service will promote law enforcement use of NICLE through all of its divisions, beginning in the MAGLOCLN network-covered portion of the country (Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania) and to provide follow-up training.

"ITAC and its member companies commend U.S. Attorney Meehan and other NICLE participants for their leadership in fighting identity theft," said Wallace. "The financial services industry is committed to working with law enforcement on behalf of consumers everywhere." ITAC is a nonprofit supported by financial services companies to help consumers and shares victim data with law enforcement.

Use of NICLE is free. All that is required is that agencies join MAGLOCLN or another data center affiliated with the Regional Information Sharing System Network and agree to contribute information to the database.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: PATTY HARTMAN
Media Contact
215-861-8525**